Mobile services

947. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States where mobile telephones have so far, been introduced during the year 2003;

(b) whether some specific areas in certain States have been kept out of the mobile technology on security grounds, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where mobile telephones have not been introduced so far; and

(d) by when, the entire country is proposed to be covered by mobile technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, during the year 2003, Cellular Mobile Telephone Services (CMTS) were launched by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland and Manipur.

(b) In terms of License conditions of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service, a buffer zone of 10 KM wdth along the Indian international border has tobe created, where no Cellular Mobile telephone Service is permitted. Further the license lays down that the width of this buffer zone along the borders within the Indian Territory shall be decided by the Government of India from time to time.

(c) Cellular Mobile Telephone Service has not been started so far at any place in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura.

(d) As per the License Agreement of CMTS, in the Telecom Circle Service Areas, atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) are to be covered in the first year and 50% of the District Headquarters will be covered within three years of effective date of Licence. The licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquaters. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of entire service area with the CMTS. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ towns shall lie with the Licensee depending on their business decision.